

**RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE
MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2006
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
AUDITORIUM
1500 CAPITOL AVE.
SACRAMENTO, CA.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

**FRIEDA TAYLOR, CHAIRMAN
EDWARD BENTLEY, MD
BERNIE GOLER, MD
WILLIAM BRAGGINS, CRT, ARRT
JOYCE COHEN, CRT, ARRT**

**ROGER ENG, MD
JANIS OWENS, MD
JACK BOIS, DPM
MELISSA MARTIN, MS**

MEMBERS ABSENT

**MARGARET HISN-SHUNG LEE, MD
THEODORE MILLER, MD
CHAD WARSHEL, DC**

MEETING SUMMARY

Ms. Frieda Taylor, Chairman of the RTCC, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Ms. Taylor gave an opening statement, which included an explanation of some of the changes that have occurred at the Radiologic Health Branch (RHB) since the last RTCC meeting in the spring of 2006. She introduced staff of the Radiologic Health Branch that were present in the audience and explained the functions of Registration and Certification Section that she is the Chief of. Ms Taylor has been appointed to Chair the RTCC by the Director of Department of Health Services and she outlined several housekeeping items such as time limits for comments from the audience and state your name clearly before speaking for the court recorder of the meeting transcript.

First Item on the Agenda: Approval of the minutes of the March 1, 2006 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by William Braggins, 2nd by Melissa Martin. Dr. Owens pointed out a grammatical error on the bottom line of page two that was corrected. Motion Passed.

Second item of the Agenda: Sudana Kwok, Chief of the Certification Unit presented “Certification News” a slide presentation in which she described current projects, planned projects, & frequently asked questions for her unit. She also introduced her staff and gave a brief description of their assignment. Question: Nancy Perkins, Bakersfield College; Will RHB develop a student tracking form for students of each school? Ans. Yes. Question: Will RHB publish their Clinical Site inspection checklist? Ans. Yes when it is ready. Question: Kyle Thornton, City College of San Francisco; why are the Veterans Administration (VA) sites not approved to be used as Clinical Training sites? Ans. Their machines are not registered with RHB and they do not require Supervisor & Operator permits for their physician supervisors, however, if the VA agrees to meet the California Health & Safety Code as well as the Regulations the site will be approved for student training. Question: Anita Slechta, Cal State Northridge; My school can not supply the Certification Unit with a blank diploma to be used as an example for graduation verification because all diploma’s must be signed by the Governor also students do not receive their official diploma until six months after they complete the program. Ans. We should get together to resolve this problem because RHB needs a control copy of the schools diploma for the record.

Yolanda Powell, Supervising Program Technician; Ms Powell supervises the Machine Registration and Certification support section of RHB. She explained the application process for applying to take the Certification exams and the normal time it takes to complete everything. If there are any errors in the application the completion time will be extended so it is best to take the time to get everything correct at the beginning.

Regulations allow up to 30 days to process an application and status letters are now sent out during the 30-day period. Ms Powell also explained how to use the RHB Web site to send e-mails or check the information lists. *There were no questions from the audience.*

Attorney William Chi, Staff Counsel; Mr. Chi discussed the Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations, Title 17 and how they relate the authority to set fees and what role the RTCC should play in the process. Mr. Chi said, “After considering the relevant legal authorities and case law in the area, it is my conclusion that the fee setting authority lies solely within the discretion of the Department of Health Services”. He also clarified the role of the RTCC by stating, “ RTCC is to establish standards of education and training and experience of persons who use x-rays on human beings and to prescribe means for assuring that the standards are met. Nothing in the sections of the Health and Safety Code authorize the RTCC to make recommendations on fee setting for the inspection of a facility”. And finally he said, “ The role of the committee is to advise and consult, and its opinions or recommendations is not legally binding on the Department nor required under statutory language as it is set today”. *There were no questions from the audience.*

Third Item on the Agenda: Phillip Scott, Chief of the Regulations Unit; Presented an explanation of several pieces of legislation both federal and state that will have an effect on the operation of the RHB.

- **The Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence (CARE) Bill: Was introduced in 1981 and has not been signed into law yet. The bill will promulgate standards for medical, dental, therapy, and nuclear medicine technologist. Mr. Scott handed out an up to date version of the CARE bill to all attendees.**

- **H.R. 1426** would amend the Public Health and Safety act to set requirements for technicians but excluded physicians and equipment standards. However, under the federal law the word “perform,” means that directly exposing the patient to ionizing radiation for purposes of medical imaging including positioning requires individuals that do either must meet the standards. Mr. Scott also handed out a complete explanation of this bill.
- **A.B. 2720** a state law that will become effective January 1, 2007 will allow individuals who have completed training to operate CT/PET or CT/SPECT equipment on a dual mode machine. (This authorization was recommended by the RTCC during their February 9, 2005 meeting). Mr. Scott explained in detail the particulars of this bill.
- **S.B.1670** a state law that will allow technicians who qualify to use digital x-ray equipment. Mr. Scott said, “So what this bill does, it would require that the Department of Health services shall provide upon recommendation of the Committee that CRTs who operate digital radiography equipment must devote a portion of his or her continuing education credit hours to continuing education in digital radiologic technology”. The RTCC did recommend this but the number of training hours was not specified so the RTCC must include the number of hours in their future recommendation on this matter. S.B. 1670 also requires that XT (limited permit) training programs shall have at least 50 hours of education in radiological protection and safety. Also, 1670 allows the use of digital radiographic equipment by XTs provided they have completed at least 20 hours of instruction in digital radiologic technology approved by the Department. XTs must also devote a portion of their continuing education units to digital radiography. And finally the bill requires that all approved schools for radiologic technologist include 20 hours of approved digital radiography instruction. Mr. Scott said, “So those are the provisions that is what the bill is telling the Department to do.
- Use of the WEB page to review the regulations; Mr. Scott explained how to locate the regulations of the DHS WEB page.

Questions: Committee member Dr Golar; How can a nuclear medicine technologist get the permit to do the radiology parts of PET/CT? Ans: The national organizations have worked together to make this possible after completion of a training period and passing an examination. **Question:** Committee member Bois;

What is the status of the federal legislation? Ans: By Anita Selecta, the bill passed yesterday and is now going to the full Senate. **Question:** Committee member Eng; Will RHB inform current PET/CT facilities of the changes in requirements? Ans: Yes we are working on a radiation safety advisory to get the word out quickly.

Question: Matt Kroona; Does access to the regulations through the Internet suffice for a hard copy? Ans: Yes it is acceptable but you must show the inspector that you can access the WEB site and bring up the regulations. Committee member Melissa Martin pointed out that in most facilities the only copy of the regulations is in the administrator’s office. **Question:** Anita Selecta; Will individuals who are operating PET/CT under the Radiation Safety Advisory (RSA) 00-1 be allowed to continue after A.B. 2720 becomes effective? Ans: They will have to get the certificates to continue operating.

Question: Lorenza Clausen, CRT; asked for clarification of who can qualify to get a PET/Ct certificate? **Ans:** Mr. Scott spelled out the criteria again. **Question:** Committee member Martin; The CARE act & RadCare bills both say that medical physicist and dosimetrist must be license, California does not have this requirement will it have to adopt the changes. **Ans:** Yes.

Forth Item on the Agenda: Diane Garcia, City College of San Francisco, The Impact of Fee increases on Radiologic Technology programs. Ms Garcia discussed the impact the recently approved fee increases have had on her program, especially the fee for clinical training site inspection. She pointed out that the RTCC had agreed with the contention that the fees should not be charged because the sites were already inspected by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (J-CERT) however, based on RHBs legal counsel opinion the Department has fee setting authority and recommendations made by the RTCC are not binding. Ms Garcia said that RHB should be aware of the consequences of the fee changes because programs have had to shift funds and not purchase needed equipment that would enhance the educational experiences of the students to pay the fees. She then turned the podium over the Mr. Kyle Thornton, Program Director, City College of San Francisco who discussed the roll JRCERT plays in the process of education of Radiologic Technologist programs. He explained the standards that programs must meet to receive accreditation and how the programs are inspected. Programs are awarded a completion certificate that is good for eight years and must be maintained by payment of a \$1500.00 annual fee and interim report filed periodically. Mr. Thornton asked that RHB grant an exemption from the fee and inspections if the program is JRCERT accredited. Thank you.

Chairperson Taylor responded by thanking Diane & Kyle for their comments and explained that the Health & Safety code does require that RHB determine that all programs meet the regulations and therefore, RHB must inspect. But the concerns raised are duly noted and she and Sudana Kwok plan to attend JRCERT training in the near future. This will help make a clear delineation of any overlap between RHB & JRCERT for making recommendations to management.

Fifth item on the agenda: Frieda Taylor, Chief Registration & Certification Section opened the topic Minimum Standards for Limited Permit Schools: Ms Taylor said RHB request that the RTCC form sub-committees to study the minimum training standards for various training programs in-order to bring standards up to date and also to incorporate the new standards into regulations. She asked for a motion to establish sub-committees for (1) limited permit schools (2) fluoroscopy permit schools (3) Dental permit schools & (4) bone densitometry schools. She also asked that each sub-committee should include at least one RTCC member.

Question: Bill Braggins, We just finished a two-year sub-committee on limited permit schools do we have to re-visit it? **Ans:** yes the recommendations need to be finalized and presented to the RTCC. Phillip Scott: SB 1670 will require some

changes in limited technician training programs such as increasing the training hours in radiation protection from 30 to 50 hours.

Motion by committee member Bill Braggins: Table the establishment of sub-committees until after the next RTCC meeting. Seconded by committee member Joyce Cohen.

There was a continued discussion by committee members regarding the make up and charge for each sub-committee. Also, discussion about approval of schools that are JRCERT approved. Phillip Scott said that it will help to get input from the sub-committee on limited permit training for the use of digital equipment before RHB implements changes required by SB 1670 and if there is no sub-committee established to make recommendations the task will be difficult. However, if the RTCC votes to table the sub-committee idea the input of the RTCC will be lost. Frieda Taylor explained how the minimum standards are used by RHB staff and why it is necessary to incorporate them into regulations for the good of all California X-ray training schools. Bill Braggins said the RTCC will help RHB achieve the goals and objectives and he is willing to re-state his motion to table the sub-committee idea until the next RTCC meeting. Chairman Taylor said the motion must be voted either up or down not modified. Call for the question; Motion did not pass.

Motion by Bill Braggins: Table the Diagnostic Radiology (full CRT) program and Therapy program minimum standards for a later date. Seconded by Dr. Bois. Passed.

Motion by Dr Eng: Establish sub-committees to evaluate minimum standards for Limited Permit, Fluoroscopy, Dental, and Bone Densitometry programs. Seconded by Bill Braggins. Passed.

Following lunch the RTCC reconvened and began working on membership and charges for sub-committees to work on the minimum training standards. Sub-committee members & responsibilities are:

Limited Permit Minimum Standards

Chair: Bill Braggins

RTCC member: Joyce Cohen

Members: Ann Smeltzer, Joe Melanson, Marilyn Cantrell, Donald Bunn, & Hope Martinez, Diane Garcia.

Responsibilities:

- A. Review and up-date the minimum training standards for their incorporation into regulations.
- B. Expand the training hours in Radiation Safety from 30 to 50.
- C. Develop and instruction program for digital radiology equipment consisting of at least 20 hours.
- D. Determine the number of credits that can be granted to an individual who has completed a LP program and applies to be accepted into a full CRT program.

Technologist Fluoroscopy Permit Schools

Chair: Melissa Martin

RTCC members: Dr. Edward Bentley, Joyce Cohen, & Dr. Roger Eng

Members: Mark Pietz, Charlene Vick, Anita Slechta, Nancy Perkins & Diane Garcia.

Responsibilities: Review the current minimum training standards and recommend up-dates to bring them up to proposed federal standards suggested by AAPM.

Dental Laboratory Radiography Programs

Chair: Matt Kroona

RTCC member: Dr. Bernie Goler

Members: Richard Krug, Jennifer Granger, & Dawn Harrat

Responsibilities: Review the minimum training standards for Dental Radiography schools and make recommendations for changes where necessary.

Bone Densitometry Technician Programs

Chair: Beverley Tracewell

RTCC member: Dr. Janis Owen

Members: Debora Vail, Wendy Tellez, & Jennifer Yates

Responsibilities: Review the minimum training standards for technologist Bone Densitometry schools and make recommendations for changes where necessary.

Motion by Dr. Eng: I would move that we authorize the Chairs of the sub-committees to have the capability of adding any an all necessary individuals to their sub-committee to perform the charges of their sub-committee. Seconded by Bill Braggins. Motion Passed.

Motion by Dr. Eng: The current LP sub-committee shall incorporate the first item of the motion that was passed at the March 1, 2006 RTCC meeting requiring a “bridge” for individuals who have completed a LP program and wish to apply to a full CRT program. Seconded by Joyce Cohen. Motion Passed.

Chairman Taylor and Phillip Scott established rules for the sub-committees to follow:

1. The Open Meeting Act does not apply
2. Provide a progress report at the next RTCC meeting
3. The Department will not reimburse sub-committee members for travel cost.
4. Sub-committee members should submit a conflict-of-interest statement.
5. Bylaws are not necessary but each sub-committee should establish a system of accountability.

This concludes all items from the meeting agenda, we will now open the floor to comments from the audience.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Angela Wilson, Yuba Community College Rad Tech program; the impact of the fees charged by RHB are having a negative impact on technologist training programs, we have to put off the purchase of needed equipment to pay fees.

Kyle Thornton, City College of San Francisco; request that in the future RHB not bill schools for fees until the schools are in session and not send bills during the summer when instructors are absent.

Pamela Jones, Canada College Radiology Technologist program; the study guide for radiography supervisor and operator examination needs to be updated. Also, the fees for each training site are exorbitant.

Jennifer Yates, Merritt College; Agrees with Pamela Jones, fees for programs that have a number of training sites add up to several thousand dollars. Also, the billing cycle needs to be changed so the bill comes before the end of the schools fiscal year.

Anita Slechta, a past RTCC member; I want to thank Chairman Frieda Taylor for her work sorting out the accreditation process for CRT schools. I am encouraged by the fact that you are investigating the JRC as an equivalent approval process for California's accreditation of the CRT programs.

Linda Ortega, Central California School, Corona; the ARRT exam for limited permit applicants needs an audit they have sent out the wrong information and students are confused by mixed messages. Chairman Taylor; Please send an e-mail to Yolanda Powell with your concerns and she will look into them.

Diane Garcia, City College of San Francisco; request RHB publish a list of all their staff employed in the Certification program. Who are they? What is their contact number? And what is their assignment? Also, the process for students who have passed the AART but are not yet CRT and apply for their fluoroscopy permit needs to be streamlined.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Richard Rodriguez, Assistant Deputy Director, Prevention Services present Certificate of Appreciation to members of the RTCC who have completed the term of their appointment. Members are: Dr. Jack Bois, Mr. William Braggins, Ms. Melissa Martin, & Dr. Theodore Miller. Mr. Rodriguez highlighted some of the RTCC accomplishments during their term of service such as completion of requirements for continuing education of all licensed operators and physician supervisors and training requirements for PET/CT equipment operators. Mr. Rodriguez thanked each member for their assistance in improving the radiation safety for all citizens of California.

Mr. Gary Butner, Acting Branch Chief, RHB, thanked everyone for his or her attendance.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Donald E Bunn, RTCC Coordinator